

ConnectKentucky and Kentucky Research Link

What is the Kentucky Research Link?

The Kentucky *Research Link* is a Web-based, searchable database of Kentucky's postsecondary education institutions publicly funded research. The vision for *Research Link* is that it will facilitate research-based economic development within the Commonwealth. Project information is provided by each postsecondary institution and is updated monthly. In support of Kentucky's efforts to expand sponsored research within the Commonwealth, this centralized resource allows any interested parties to easily access and track existing research projects. Additionally, this initiative will enable the Commonwealth to benchmark its research successes on a continual basis and to assist in identifying future research endeavors.

What is ConnectKentucky?

ConnectKentucky is a science and technology company, contracted by the Department for Commercialization and Innovation, to document the funded research being conducted at Kentucky's postsecondary institutions. In July 2005, the Council became the host for *Research Link* with ConnectKentucky contracted to continue development of the site and planned enhancements.

Why is a program like this needed?

As federal research dollars become less available, it is imperative that institutions and researchers pool their intellectual capital, collaborating on research ideas and proposals. Kentucky's postsecondary institutions are rich in intellect with many shared interests and areas of expertise. *Research Link* is a tool that researchers may use to find colleagues with similar interests. It also is a tool to attract both graduate students and faculty to a field of research interest. In addition, businesses may be able to find researchers that have expertise to advise them in areas of research and development, and vice versa, promoting economic development and attracting businesses to Kentucky.

Will this program encourage partnerships among educational providers and other organizations?

The Kentucky *Research Link* has already made inroads in working with like-minded researchers. Forming partnerships and collaboratives will only grow stronger as the tool is available to all. It is a tool for new and junior researchers to seek out the experienced and funded researchers. Plans are underway for many enhancements, among them inclusion of a researcher/interest profile database, institutional and industry database of labs with equipment specificity that can be shared, a directory of centers and institutes, online training in successful grantsmanship strategies, shared publications and journal subscriptions, and grants management tools for the smaller offices of sponsored projects.

What is the Council's request?

The Council seeks \$100,000 of new funding in both years of the 2006-08 biennium to enhance the development of the Web-based *Research Link*.



Photo source: UofL

One Mission: Better Lives for Kentucky's People